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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 CIAE-00 EA-07 EUR-12
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
ERDA HQ WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN
SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, CCD
SUBJECT: CCD: 747TH PLENARY SESSION, APRIL 26, 1977

REF: STATE 88907

1. SUMMARY: 747TH PLENARY MEETING WAS HELD MORNING, APRIL 26. CZECH DEPMIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADDRESSED COMMITTEE ON GENERAL DISARMAMENT ISSUES (CTB, CW, MDW AND WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE). GDR MADE STATEMENT
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ESPOUSING SOVIET LINE ON MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW) AND AGITATING FOR PROGRESS IN CCD TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE BAN ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW). END SUMMARY.

2. THE 747TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE CCD CONVENED MORNING, APRIL 26 WITH CANADIAN REP (JAY) IN CHAIR. CZECH DEPMIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (VEJVODA) MADE BRIEF STATEMENT ON GENERAL

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DISARMEMENT ISSUES, PLACING GREATEST EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR
PROGRESS IN AREA OF COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB) AND CW.
GOC EXPRESSED INTEREST IN "ALL-ROUND STRENGTHENING AND
UNIVERSALIZATION OF GUARANTEES" THAT PNE'S NOT PROVIDE WEAPONS
BENEFITS AND CALLED FOR WIDER ADHERENCE TO NON-PROLIFERATION
TREATY. HE ALSO SAID, HOWEVER, DEVELOPMENT OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR
POWER SHOULD NOT BE HAMPERED. CZECH DEP MIN EXPRESSED SUPPORT
FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE "UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES"
TO PREPARE TO NEGOTIATE CW TREATY AS MEANS OF FACILITATING
PROGRESS IN AREA. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT NATIONAL VERIFICATION
METHODS COMBINED WITH INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURES SHOULD BE ADEQUATE,
BUT THAT SUCH MATTERS HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY EXPLORED AND
THEREFORE, ANY DOUBTS AS TO RELIABILITY OF NATIONAL MEANS WERE
NOT WELL-FOUNDED. HE CALLED FOR CONTINUING WORK THIS YEAR TO
PREPARE DATA TO WORK OUT TREATY TEXT ON MDW. CZECH DEP/MIN
SUPPORTED CONVENING WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCES STATING THAT
CCD SHOULD PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE AS AN EXPERT BODY AND THAT WDC
QUESTION SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.
BEFORE CONCLUDING, CZECH DEP/MIN BRIEFLY REFERRED TO AND SUPPORTED
SOVIET NON-USE OF FORCE AND NON-FIRST-USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
INITIATIVES.

3. CZECH DEPMIN, IN REMARKS ON ENMOD CONVENTION, NOTED
THAT TREATY WOULD BE OPEN FOR SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION
BY STATES IN A FEW WEEKS (SEE SEPTEL).

4. GDR REP (HERDER) MADE STATEMENT FOCUSSING ON MDW AND
CW. GDR REP COMPARED TREATY ON MDW TO RECENTLY CONCLUDED
ENMOD CONVENTION CALLING BOTH "PREVENTIVE" AND SAID THAT
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MDW TREATY COULD IN NO WAY HAMPER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AS
IT WOULD ONLY PROHIBIT THE MILITARY USE OF NEW AND
REVOLUTIONARY SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES; ALSO CALLED FOR
CONTINUING EFFORTS IN CCD TO REACH AGREEMENT ON MDW, GDR
REP STATED THAT CW BAN SHOULD BE COMPREHENSIVE AND BASED
ON PURPOSE CRITERION AS SET FORTH IN 1972 DRAFT SUBMITTED
BY SOCIALIST STATES. HE SAID THAT ANY STAGED APPROACH
BEGINNING WITH MOST LETHAL AGENTS MUST INCLUDE FOLLOW-ON
PROVISION TO EXTEND BAN TO ALL CW, AND CALLED PARTIAL
APPROACH CONTAINED UK AND JAPANESE DRAFTS "ILLUSION" BECAUSE
IT DID NOT COVER BINARIES. HE REMINDED COMMITTEE THAT USE
OF CW IS PROHIBITED BY GENEVA PROTOCOL OF 1925. GDR
REP OPPOSED UK DRAFT PROVISIONS RE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL
ORGAN AND STATES' OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE STOCKPILE INFORMATION
PRIOR TO TREATY'S ENTRY INTO FORCE, HE SUPPORTED SOVIET
STAND ON VERIFICATION. HE SAID TECHNICAL DISCUSSION SHOULD
NOT DIVERT COMMITTEE FROM POLITICAL DECISION WHICH HE STATED
HAS BECOME URGENT NOW. HE CALLED FOR CREATION OF WORKING
GROUP TO NEGOTIATE CW TREATY AS SOON AS US/USSR JOINT INITIATIVE

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IS ANNOUNCED.

5. CHAIRMAN-OF-THE-DAY READ PROPOSAL THAT HAD BEEN CIRCULATED BY SOVIET DEL WHICH SUGGESTED THAT DURING SUMMER SESSION INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS ON NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW) SHOULD BE HELD DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING AUGUST 8, 1977, AND THAT CCD COULD TAKE DECISION ON THIS MATTER AT NEXT PLENARY ON APRIL 28. NETHERLANDS REP OBJECTED TO SETTING A FIRM DATE FOR MDW MEETINGS WITHOUT TAKING OTHER POSSIBLE AGENDA PRIORITIES INTO CONSIDERATION. HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO TAKE PROVISIONAL DECISION. CHAIRMAN-OF-THE-DAY INDICATED THAT CCD HAD THREE OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH ISSUE ON APRIL 28:

A. TAKE FORMAL DECISION TO SET AUGUST 8 AS STARTING DATE FOR MDW INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS.

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B. DEFER TAKING DECISION UNTIL SUMMER SESSION.

C. TAKE PROVISIONAL DECISION TO HOLD MDW MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS STARTING ON AUGUST.

AFTER PLENARY, SOVIET REP (LIKHATCHEV) DISCUSSED DECISION ON MDW MEETING WITH US REP (MEYERS) AND AGREED, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY, TO TAKE PROVISIONAL DECISION ON SETTING DATE FOR MDW MEETING DURING SUMMER SESSION. US DEL INTENDS TO SUPPORT SUCH A DECISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL.

6. NEXT PLENARY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 28.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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